



WGFD

Conserving Wildlife, Serving People

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News Release

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Comment Period Open for Wolf Hunting Season, Hunter Safety Changes, and More

CHEYENNE—The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has opened a public comment period on a number of proposed changes to regulations and seasons. These include:

- Chapter 4: Furbearing and Trapping Seasons
- Chapter 26: Regulation Concerning Hunter Safety
- Chapter 29: Issuance and Sale of Wyoming Interstate Game Tags
- Chapter 36: Regulation Governing Taxidermists
- Chapter 42: Mountain Lion Hunting Seasons
- Chapter 44: Regulation for Issuance of Licenses, Permits, Stamps, Tags, Preference Points, and Coupons
- Chapter 47: Gray Wolf Hunting Seasons

The comment period runs through 5 p.m. on July 3, 2008. The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission will take action on these items at its July 30-Aug.1, 2008, meeting in Dubois.

The department will also hold a series of public meetings to discuss these issues. The schedule for those meetings is as follows:

- June 9, 7:00 pm, Green River WWCC, Green River Center, JWP Room
- June 9, 7:00 pm, Laramie, Albany County Library
- June 10, 7:00 pm, Lander, Lander Community Center
- June 10, 7:00 pm, Pinedale, Pinedale Library
- June 11, 7:00 pm, Jackson, Antler Inn
- June 11, 6:30 pm, Sheridan, Sheridan College, C-tel Room
- June 12, 7:00 pm, Casper, Casper Regional Office
- June 12, 7:00 pm, Cody, Holiday Inn

The department is proposing a wolf hunting season for the Trophy Game Area of northwest Wyoming in fall of 2008. The structure of the season will be an Area Harvest Quota Limitation, in which the season for each wolf hunt area will close when the harvest quota for that area has been reached. The proposal will establish wolf seasons and harvest quotas in four hunt areas in the Trophy Game Area of northwest Wyoming. These are:

<u>Hunt Area</u>	<u>Season Dates</u>	<u>Harvest Quota</u>
Sunlight	Oct. 1-Nov. 30	5
Francs Peak	Oct. 1-Nov. 30	10
Gros Ventre	Oct. 1-Nov. 15	5
Green River	Oct. 1-Nov. 30	5

“This proposed season structure and harvest quota represents an extremely conservative approach to wolf hunting in Wyoming,” said Game and Fish Wildlife Assistant Chief Bill Rudd. “Wolves are reproducing at an average annual rate of 24% in Wyoming, and can sustain much higher harvest than we are proposing through hunting. Removing some wolves through controlled hunting can also help prevent wolf-livestock conflicts in some cases.”

All hunters who take a wolf in the Trophy Game Area will be required to report that take within 24 hours. They will also be required to present the skull and pelt to a district Game Warden, district wildlife biologist or department personnel at a Game and Fish regional office during normal business hours within five days.

To see proposed wolf hunting seasons and associated information, visit the Game and Fish Web site at <http://gf.state.wy.us/services/education/wolves/index.asp>. Copies of all regulation changes and seasons can be viewed at the public meetings or by contacting the Casper region Game and Fish office at (307) 473-3400.

All comments must be in writing and must be submitted at the public meetings or mailed to the following address:

Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Wildlife Division
ATTN: Regulations
3030 Energy Lane
Casper, WY 82604
(307) 473-3400

The Game and Fish supports the Americans with Disabilities Act. Every effort will be made for reasonable accommodations by contacting the nearest Game and Fish office.